

Norton Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1897.

Area, in statute acres	..	..	..	..	..	10,315
Population enumerated 1891	..	..	..	..	..	8,044
„ estimated 1897	..	..	..	..	..	11,179
Name of Medical Officer of Health	..	..	ARTHUR K. GALE.			
Date of Appointment, March, 1893 (with sanction of the Local Government Board).						

SHEFFIELD :

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1898.

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1897.

The vital statistics are as follows :—

Vital Statistics.				Per 1000
	Birth rate	...	...	34·3
	Death rate	...	...	13·08
	Rate of infant deaths under 1			
	year per 1000 births	...		110·5
	Death rate from seven principal			
	Zymotic Diseases	...		1·2

Notes on Statistics.

These statistics compare very favourably with those of previous years.

The Zymotic death rate is chiefly due to Scarlatina and Diarrhœa, ten deaths from the latter disease occurring in the month of August

Infectious Diseases Notified.

The following cases of Infectious disease have been notified during the year :—

Scarlatina	...	...	...	92
Diphtheria	...	...	...	5
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	13
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	11

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

The following deaths from Infectious disease were registered during the year : —

Scarlatina	...	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	1

The notified cases of Scarlatina were distributed over the different months of the year as follows :—

January	...	...	...	...	17
February	...	...	...	...	9
March	...	...	...	...	16
April	...	...	...	...	7
May	...	...	...	...	8
June	...	...	...	...	2
July	...	...	...	...	9
August	...	...	...	...	5
September	...	...	...	...	6
October	...	...	...	...	3
November	...	...	...	...	6
December	...	...	...	...	4
Total					92

The epidemic of Scarlatina prevalent during the latter half of the year 1896 continued in a modified form during the whole year, 92 cases being notified against 156 in the previous year. During the whole of this time the disease was very prevalent in the surrounding districts, and frequently it was difficult to ascertain the exact source of infection. In many instances a number of cases occurred in one household, but a large percentage of cases appeared to derive infection from those in whom the disease had not been recognised. Unfortunately, parents who are intelligent and acting in perfect good faith often fail to recognize a mild attack of Scarlatina in their children, and after a few days' detention at home for a "bad cold" they are sent to school again. The Notification Act has been of great service in enabling the Medical Officer of Health to exclude from school recognized cases of the more serious infectious disease, but in practice it is found that these mild unrecognized cases of Scarlatina are constantly occurring. The minor infectious diseases of childhood, such as Whooping Cough, Measles, Impetigo, &c., do not as a rule come under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health until an outbreak has attained considerable dimensions. I cannot help thinking that much might be done to lessen the spread of infectious disease in public

elementary schools if the school authorities appointed medical officers of their own to supplement the efforts of the teachers and school attendance officers in detecting cases of infectious disease among the scholars. Much public money is now spent in improving the mental condition of Board School children; a little, I think, might with advantage be devoted to promoting their physical welfare as a body.

Enteric
Fever.

Thirteen cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year. With the exception of three cases at an isolated farmhouse, they were located in the lower portion of Norton parish. In most of them a wet condition of the household ashpit was found.

The adoption of the "Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890" is now under the consideration of the Council.

Part iii of "The Public Health Amendment Act 1890" has been adopted.

Isolation
Hospital.

Steps have have been taken by the Sites Committee of the North-East Derbyshire Isolation Hospital District to secure a site for an infectious hospital.

Vaccination.

In my last annual report I pointed out that much of the vaccination performed in your district is inefficient, and expressed a hope that future legislation would insist on a proper standard of efficiency being maintained in both public and private vaccination. In the Queen's Speech we are promised a new Vaccination Act, but its provisions are not yet made public. I trust that your Council and other public bodies will, if necessary, use their influence to secure the passage of a really useful bill through the Houses of Parliament.

Drainage.

Early in the year plans were submitted for the erection of new houses in Firth's Road. The sewer in this road had been constructed many years ago, before a sanitary authority existed in the district, was connected directly with the river Sheaf, and had never received sewage. Your Council refused to pass building plans until a

proper outlet for sewage was provided. As it appeared likely that a large amount of new building would take place in this district, the Council took the matter up, and the various property owners concerned agreed to guarantee the entire cost of a new sewer from Firth's New Road to the present main sewer in Little London Road. The work is now being carried out under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor. In the natural course of events this sewer will at some future time receive the drainage of a considerable area.

The Council have had under consideration the formation of a Special Drainage District for a portion of Dore, and have approached the City Council of Sheffield to allow them to connect with their sewer on the Abbeydale Road.

The Totley Sewage Scheme mentioned in my last annual report has now been carried out.

During the year active steps have been taken to do away with wet privy ashpits. The Sanitary Inspector has investigated all cases where a wet condition has been reported by the Scavenging Contractor. A handbill has been posted on the ashpit doors warning householders against the prevalent practice of emptying the domestic slops therein.

Ashpits.

In my last annual report I detailed the arrangements of the Council for the scavenging of their district. The Council now require the contractor to empty all ashpits between the hours of 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.

Scavenging.

During the year the Council have given the necessary guarantee for the extension of the Sheffield Water Company's mains to Bole Hill, Norton, Little Norton, Backmoor and Hemsworth. This practically completes the scheme of water supply the Council have been engaged in carrying out for some time past. With the exception of isolated houses the whole district is now supplied by the Sheffield Water Company's mains.

Water
Supply.

In August last the Council determined to separate the offices of Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, hitherto combined, and Mr. Wm. Daft, who had previously held a similar office under Corporations of Manchester and Sheffield, was appointed as Sanitary Inspector, being required to devote his whole time to the duties.

Appended is a return of the work done in the Nuisance Inspector's department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Norton Woodseats,
March 2nd, 1898.

A. K. GALE.

C.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisance's Department during the Year 1897 in the Derbyshire portion of the Rural Sanitary District of Norton.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Informal Notices served by Inspector.	Legal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions ..	..	6		2	2
		Structural Defects ..	..	28		32	17
		Overcrowding ..	..	5		1	1
		Unfit for Habitation ..	..	6		1	1
		Dairies and Milkshops ..	..	69		1	1
		Cowsheds ..	..	61		1	1
		Slaughter-houses ..	..	14		3	
		Ashpits and Privies ..	..	201	8	92	73
House Drainage.	{	Deposits of Refuse and Manure		20	2	8	8
		Defective Traps ..	..	30	7	65	45
		No Disconnection ..	..	64	7	43	38
		Other Faults ..	..	81		27	19
		Water Supply ..	..	11	5		
		Smoke Nuisances ..	..	23	1	1	2
TOTALS ..			616	30	277	208	

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	11
Do. do. Condemned as Unfit for use	8

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	21
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	21
Method of Disinfection adopted.—Burning Sulphur and Washing with Izal.	
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease ..	1
Convictions	1

K2 3. Table of DEATHS during the Year 1897 in the NORTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according
(A) to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE,															
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	(i)	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
																							(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
NORTON & BEAUCHIEF	{ 128	41	15	5	8	28	31	Under 5 5 upwds.	3			1	1	1	5		1	12	1	11	3	32	56
DORE & TOTLEY.....	{ 27	2	4	—	1	11	9	Under 5 5 upwds.									3	2		4	2	4	6
TOTALS	155	43	19	5	9	39	40	Under 5 5 upwds.	3			1	1	1	5		1	14	1	15	5	36	62
									3	1	1				1		7	15	15	5	43	93	

K2 11. Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1897 in the NORTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to (B) Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.							
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS		Erysipalas.	TOTAL.	
								Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerpera			
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)								
NORTON AND BEAU-CHIEF	5576	9354	339	Under 5 5 upwds.	32 59		5	1	12	1	10	34 88
DORE AND TOTLEY..	2468	1825	50	Under 5 5 upwds.			1					1 2
TOTALS	8044	11,179	389	Under 5 5 upwds.	32 60		5	1	12	1	11	35 90

AREA and POPULATION of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

AREA IN ACRES, 10,315.

POPULATION (1891), 8,044.

ESTIMATED TO MIDDLE OF 1897, 11,179.

DEATH RATES

GENERAL 13.08

{ per 1,000
Population,
estimated to middle
of 1897.

INFANTS (under one year
of age) 110.5

{ per 1,000 Births
Registered.